

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of :
Ivan E. Petkov :
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S.N.: 10/709,584 :
: A.U. : 3742
Filed: 05/15/2004 :
: Examiner: Pelham
For: System for Drying Equipment :
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Commissioner of Patents
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22302

Amendment and Request for Reconsideration

Sir:

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 5, 2006.. This response is a full, complete and timely response to that Office Action.

The Status of the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (amended) A drying and heating system for use with sports equipment and other articles of use, said system comprising:

a transportable container;

at least one compartment in said transportable container having walls;

a ~~center~~ panel in at least one of said at least one compartment;

at least one heating element within ~~in~~ said ~~center~~ panel;

an inner protective lining on said panel between the interior of said at least one compartment and said at least one heating element; and

a reflective outer lining on said panel on the exterior of said compartment; and

a power supply connected to said transportable container for providing power to said at least one heating element.

2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein said system further includes:

at least one access opening to allow moisture to evaporate during the drying of an item.

3. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein said system further includes:

said power supply having dual voltage means for supplying AC and DC power to said at least one heating element.

4. (amended) A drying and heating system for use with sports equipment and other articles of use, said system comprising:

a transportable container;

at least one compartment in said transportable container having walls;

a center panel in at least one of said at least one compartment;

at least one heating element within ~~in~~ said center panel;

a power supply connected to said transportable container for providing power to said at least one heating element; and

at least one water retention device for collecting moisture during the drying of an item.

5. (original) The heating and drying system of claim 1 wherein said heating element includes:

a thermostat to control the temperature of said heating element.

6. (original) The heating and drying system of claim 1 wherein said power source includes:

an electrical converter connectable to an external power supply..

7. (original) The heating and drying system of claim 1 wherein said power source includes:

a DC battery power supply contained in said transportable container.

8. (original) The heating and drying system of claim 1 wherein said power supply includes:

an AC power supply and a DC battery power supply contained in said transportable container.

9. (amended) A drying and heating system for use with sports equipment and other articles of use, said system comprising:

a transportable container;

at least one compartment in said transportable container having walls;

at least one heating element in one of said walls;

a reflective outer layer on said walls adjacent said at least one heating element;

a power supply connected to said transportable container for providing power to said at least one heating element;

a thermostat to control the temperature of said at least one heating element within a finite specified range; and

ventilation openings in said at least one compartment to allow moisture to evaporate during the drying process.

10. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said system further includes:
at least two access openings to allow moisture to evaporate during the drying of an item.

11. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said system further includes:
said power supply having dual voltage means for supplying AC and DC power to said at least one heating element.

12. (amended) A drying and heating system for use with sports equipment and other articles of use, said system comprising:

a transportable container;
at least one compartment in said transportable container having walls;
at least one heating element in one of said walls;
a reflective lining on the exterior of said at least one compartment adjacent said at least one heating element;
a power supply connected to said transportable container for providing power to said at least one heating element;
ventilation openings in said at least one compartment to allow moisture to evaporate during the drying process; and
at least one water retention device for collecting moisture during the drying of an item.

13. (canceled)

14. (original) The heating and drying system of claim 9 wherein said power source includes:

an electrical converter connectable to an external power supply.

15. (original) The heating and drying system of claim 9 wherein said power source includes:

a DC battery power supply contained in said transportable container.

16. (original) The heating and drying system of claim 9 wherein said power supply includes:

an AC power supply and a DC battery power supply contained in said transportable container.

17. (amended) The heating and drying system of claim 9 wherein said transportable container includes:

at least one strap having fastening mechanisms on each end; and

~~a plurality of at least three~~ engagement points on said transportable container for securing said at least one strap in a plurality of different configurations.

18. (amended) A drying and heating system for use with sports equipment and other articles of use, said system comprising:

a transportable container;

at least one compartment in said transportable container having walls;

a center panel extending in at least one of said at least one compartment between said walls;

at least one heating element ~~in~~ within said center panel;

a power supply connected to said transportable container for providing power to said at least one heating element; and

a thermostat to control the temperature of said heating element within a finite specified range.

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 12 and 14 - 18 are presently pending.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 – 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR'408 in view of US'401. Claims 1 – 3 and 6 now include the limitation of a reflective layer on the outer wall adjacent the heating element. This is not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art references. These claims are no longer limited to the heating element contained within the center panel.

Claim 4 was newly rejected in view of combinations of FR '408, US '471 and US '861. US '861 is cited as disclosing a moisture collection means for a drying container. However, neither FR '408 or US '471 is concerned with humidity or condensation. Thus there is no motivation to modify the structure of those two references by adding the moisture collection means of US '861. Further, US '861 fails to disclose the use of a heating element within the center panel or even the use of a center panel.

Claim 5 was rejected in view of FR '408, US '401 and US '346. Claim 5 now includes the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected in view of FR '408, US '401 and US '012. Claims 7 and 8 now include the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

Claims 9 – 11, 14 and 17 were rejected in view of the combination of FR '408 and US '346. These claims now include the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element. This limitation is not disclosed by any of the prior art references. Also, none of these references disclose a transportable container having at least three engagement points for the strap to be attached in different positions.

Claim 12 was rejected in view of the combination of FR "408, US '347 and US '861. However, neither FR '408 or US '471 is concerned with humidity or condensation. Thus there

is no motivation to modify the structure of those two references by adding the moisture collection means of US '861. Further, claim 12 now includes the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected in view of FR '408, US '346 and US '012. These claims now include the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

It is noted that claim 18 was not rejected under this line of rejections.

Alternative grounds of rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 18 were rejected in view of US '861 and US '995. US '861 discloses a cabinet having rigid walls, air vents and a trough with an absorbent material. This cabinet does not disclose heating elements, a thermostat, electrical power, or a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating elements. US '995 discloses a towel warmer having walls and a center panel with electrical heating elements on the surfaces of the walls and center panel, not within the walls or center panel. The towel warmer also does not have air vents, water retention means, or a reflective outer layer. The combination of these two references do not disclose the critical limitations of the heating elements within the walls and center panel to prevent damage to the equipment being heated or to the heating elements. Also the heating elements of this combination would be in danger of shorting due to the wet from the equipment being dried. Also, neither of these references disclose a reflective outer layer. Also, none of these references disclose a transportable container having at least three engagement points for the strap to be attached in different positions.

FR'408 does not disclose, suggest or teach a system that uses a center panel with a heating element. US'401 is cited as disclosing a center panel with a heating element. It is noted however that US'401 discloses a partition with a heating element draped over it. There is no heating element contained within a center panel, nor is there any suggestion for doing so. The heating element disclosed in US'401 is used to warm textile garments whereas the heating element in the present invention is used to dry wet equipment, such as wetsuits, boots, etc. This wetness would short out the heating element in US'401. Thus it is critical to mount the heating element within the center panel. US'401 teaches away from this by merely draping the heating element over the center partition and along the sides.

Claims 9 – 11, 14 and 17 were rejected in view of the combination of FR '408 and US '346. Neither of these references disclose a reflective outer layer.

Claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 15 and 16 were rejected in view of the combination of US '861, US '995 and US '012. None of these references disclose the reflective outer layer.

The pending claims are now considered to be in condition for allowance. The Applicant hereby respectfully requests that those claims be indicated as allowable at the earliest possible time.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if further discussions would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/4/06

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